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REIKO MOMOCHI PRESENTS

KC Dessert

KC デザート

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KC DX 2

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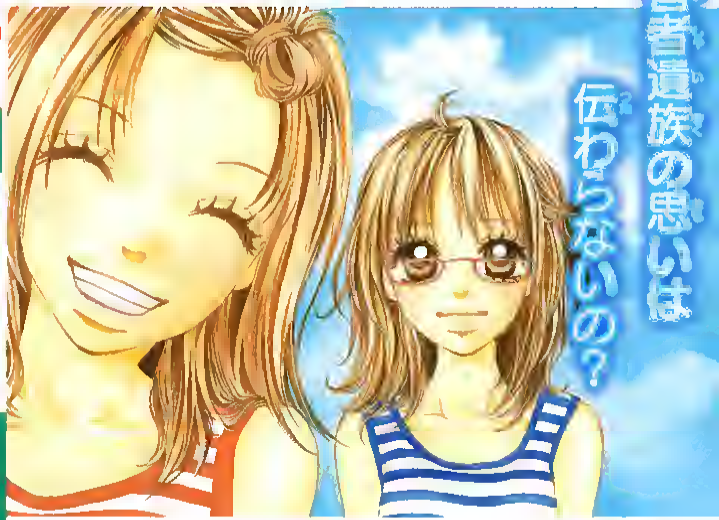
KCデザート Dessert



人を殺しても無罪ですか？

「ことり」が殺害されて2か月余り。ようやく始まった裁判で、容疑者・五刀田は無罪を主張する。事件直前の覚せい剤使用が争点となった判決は!? 五刀田が殺したのは1人なんかじゃない。奪われた「のばら」の人生、自殺未遂で失われた母の魂、「ことり」が育むはずだった命――。『極刑以外ありえない!』「のばら」たちの思いは届くのか!?

CHAPTER 5 "FIRST TRIAL"

Everyone I love
seem to disappear.

The only ones who come here are the police and the media.
There's no gravestone where Kotori was killed.
THIS MUST'VE BEEN LEFT HERE BY A POLICEMAN
KOTORI...

what?
YOU JUST IGNORED THEM?!
THOSE GIRLS KEPT TALKING TO ME IN THE STATION EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T KNOW THEM.
It just got too troublesome.
GEEZ, NOBARA. I TOLD YOU TO REPLY TO THEM!
They'll think I was ignoring them.
THEY ALL THINK YOU'RE ME.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN UPPERCLASSMEN
Oh no, what am I going to do?
My bad, I'll pay more attention next time.
As identical twins,

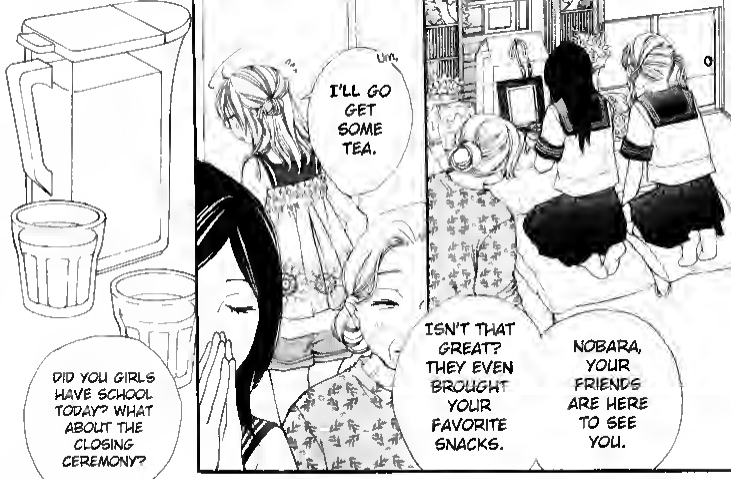
Tch
DAMN, I GUESS WE DO HAVE SOME DIFFERENCES
even our mother couldn't tell us apart
NO!!
CAN YOU PLEASE TAKE MY TEST FOR ME!
Grab
Ouch!
Punch
YOU JERK! YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE SINCE YOU'RE MY BOYFRIEND
YOU GUYS SWITCHED AGAIN?
Kyaaaa!
NOBARA!♥

MOM'S HER USUAL SELF,
BUT I'LL HAVE GRANDMA TO HELP ME THROUGH THIS.
I WONDER IF I CAN DO A GOOD JOB...
LIVING AS KOTORI, BUT
HE SAID HE'D SUPPORT ME
BUT THIS TIME HE NOTICED RIGHT AWAY.
YUUWA WAS NEVER ABLE TO TELL US APART.
KEEP OUT
KEEP
EVEN AT THIS STAGE, THEY'RE ONLY CALLING HIM A 'SUSPECT'.
THE MAN WHO KILLED KOTORI WAS ARRESTED AND IS NOW BEING QUESTIONED.

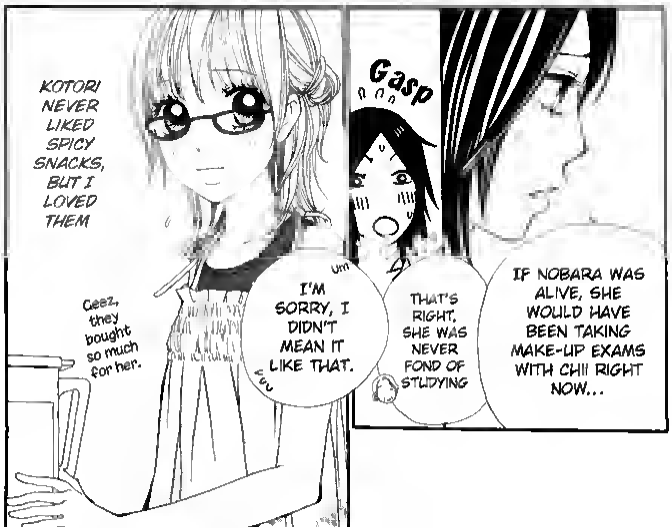
The fear and suffering Kotori went through here
BUT IT WON'T MATTER SINCE HE'LL STILL BE EXECUTED.
Grab
WE COULDN'T FIND ANY BODY FLUIDS, BUT THAT KIND OF BODILY HARM JUST ISN'T NORMAL.
I WOULDN'T RULE OUT THE FACT THAT HE RAPED HER AFTER KILLING HER...
KUH
PERVERTED SEXUAL FETISH
BODY FOUND COMPLETELY NUDE

I promise.
So please, just wait a little longer.
will be avenged soon,
Oh, YOU CAME TO LIGHT AN INCENSE FOR NOBARA?
THANK YOU.
This way.
Sorry for intruding.
HER SISTER, KOTORI, IS OUT RIGHT NOW. .
I'M BACK.
AH, WELCOME BACK, KOTORI

Bow
DAMN, I FORGOT TO PUT MY GLASSES BACK ON.
UM,
I'M NOBARA'S SISTER, KOTORI.
THESE GUYS MIGHT BE ABLE TO TELL I'M NOBARA.
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
AH...
HIME-CHAN AND CHII...


I'LL GO GET SOME TEA.
Um.
NOBARA, YOUR FRIENDS ARE HERE TO SEE YOU.
ISN'T THAT GREAT? THEY EVEN BROUGHT YOUR FAVORITE SNACKS.
DID YOU GIRLS HAVE SCHOOL TODAY? WHAT ABOUT THE CLOSING CEREMONY?

WE ACTUALLY HAD A STUDY BREAK. I HAD CLUB ACTIVITIES
AND SHE HAD MAKE-UP EXAMS.


KOTORI NEVER LIKED SPICY SNACKS, BUT I LOVED THEM
Geez, they bought so much for her.
I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT.
Um
Gasp
THAT'S RIGHT. SHE WAS NEVER FOND OF STUDYING
IF NOBARA WAS ALIVE, SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKING MAKE-UP EXAMS WITH CHI! RIGHT NOW...

Sniff
YEAH, NOBARA WASN'T THE BRIGHTEST PERSON EVER.
SHE MIGHT NOT EVEN KNOW SHE'S DEAD RIGHT NOW AND IS PROBABLY WANDERING AROUND SOMEWHERE.
Chii...
EVEN THOUGH ALL THAT SUPER-NATURAL STUFF
USUALLY SCARES ME,
I JUST WANT HER HERE WITH ME...
I WON'T BE SCARED
IF IT'S NOBARA'S GHOST
SO COME ON OUT, NOBARA.
CHII, HIME, I'M RIGHT HERE. I'M ALIVE AND STANDING IN FRONT OF YOU.

EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW SHE WON'T REPLY,
MANY OF US STILL SEND HER TEXTS
BECAUSE HER PHONE HASN'T BEEN DISABLED YET.
Oh
Umm...
CAN YOU PLEASE KEEP HER PHONE CONTRACT?
IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE CONNECTED TO THE NOBARA IN HEAVEN...
I forgot all about it.
Ever since the detective returned it to me.
later

Ding Dong
HELLO.
Piii
I'VE KEPT IT TURNED OFF...
Click Click
EH..?
KOTORI, HAVE YOU BEEN EATING PROPERLY?
ARE THEY KOTORI'S CLASS-MATES?
UH..
Hello.
WE CAME TO LIGHT AN INCENSE FOR NOBARA-SAN
OH, THANK YOU
WE'LL BE LEAVING NOW..
Thank you for dropping by

PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT NOBARA.
OF COURSE NOT.
WE'LL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS.
WAIT..
CHII, HIME,
NOBARA WAS REALLY LOVED BY HER FRIENDS, HUH?
We all bought the same snacks for her.
Dash
I...

Everyone is suffering from "my" death.
They have accepted the fact that Nohara is dead
EVEN THOUGH I'M ACTUALLY ALIVE.
AH
If this was just like any other day, I would be wearing the same uniform
and the three of us would be walking together.

I HATE HIM...
Rest in peace – Yuki
I wish we could have talked more – Nocchin
– I'm sending you Amro's new song Isn't it great? – Sheena
I never thought I could hate a person this much. I miss you, Nobara –Hime
Geez, Nobara You still haven't paid me back my 200 yen – Kanako
It wasn't supposed to be like this.
I HATE GOTOLIDA, THE MAN WHO KILLED KOTORI.
BACK
The class suddenly feels empty when you aren't here We all miss you. – Mari

GIVE IT ALL BACK.
GIVE KOTORI BACK TO ME. GIVE ME BACK THE LIFE I WAS SUPPOSED TO LIVE.
I'm sure the whole world is wishing for his execution.
WHAT...?
YOU CAN'T PRESS CHARGES YET?!

I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU AGAIN, BUT
WHEN YOU LAST CAME IN CONTACT WITH NOBARA-SAN...
BUT YOU TOLD US
THE NEXT TIME WE SAW YOU, YOU'D TELL US HIS PUNISHMENT.
.....
Irritated
I'VE TOLD YOU SO MANY TIMES ALREADY!
Kokoro
SINCE YOU CAN'T PRESS CHARGES,
IT'LL TAKE A WHILE FOR A COURT HEARING TO TAKE PLACE.
ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE GATHERING EVIDENCE?

THERE WAS AN EYE WITNESS WHEN YOU ARRESTED HIM, RIGHT?
SO HE MUST BE THE OFFENDER!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
THERE MUST BE EVIDENCE ALL OVER HIS CLOTHES, HER HAIR..
The body
THERE MUST BE PRINTS ALL OVER KOTORI'S BODY.
THERE WAS SOMETHING THAT WASN'T HERS
ON HER NAILS, RIGHT?
IT WAS HIS, WASN'T IT?!

ISN'T THAT ENOUGH EVIDENCE?!
WE STILL HAVEN'T RECEIVED THE TEST RESULTS FOR THE EVIDENCE.
AREN'T DNA TESTS ONLY SUPPOSED TO TAKE A DAY?!
KOTORI
WELL...?
WHAT IS GOTOUDA SAYING?!
DIDN'T YOU GUYS QUESTION HIM?
FORGIVE ME, BUT I AM NOT ALLOWED TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION ON THE CASE OR HIS TESTIMONIAL.
WHAT?

WE ARE TRYING OUR HARDEST
SO PLEASE,
JUST GIVE US A LITTLE BIT MORE TIME.
AREN'T WE THE VICTIMS HERE?
WHAT THE HELL?!

I'M SORRY, KOTORI.
THERE'S NO GOOD NEWS TO BRING TO YOU TODAY.
Grip
YU...
YUUWA...

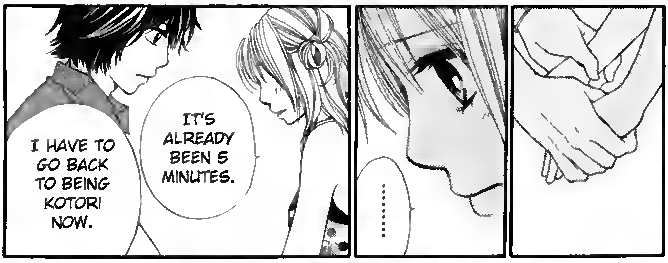
WERE YOU THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THE FLOWERS?
THAT'S RIGHT, I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE TRUTH.
THANK YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT..

NOBARA...
ARE YOU OKAY?

IS IT SUPPOSED TO TAKE THIS LONG?
THE VICTIM'S FAMILY IS SUPPOSED TO DEPEND ON THE POLICE, BUT IF IT'S LIKE THIS...
YOU OFTEN SEE ON THE NEWS THAT
THE SUSPECT HIRES A VERY SKILLED LAWYER
WHO JUST TURNS EVERY EVIDENCE AGAINST THE POLICE IN ORDER TO GET A LIGHTER SENTENCE.
MAYBE THE POLICE ARE TRYING THEIR HARDEST TO GATHER SOLID EVIDENCE FOR AN ABSOLUTE VICTORY.
.....
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
THE DETECTIVE DID TELL YOU THEY'RE TRYING THEIR HARDEST, RIGHT?
YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME FAITH IN THEM.

LET'S TRUST THEM AND WAIT, OKAY?
IT'LL JUST TAKE A LITTLE LONGER.
I'M SURE WE'LL WIN THE HEARING.
ONCE THEY HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO PRESS CHARGES,

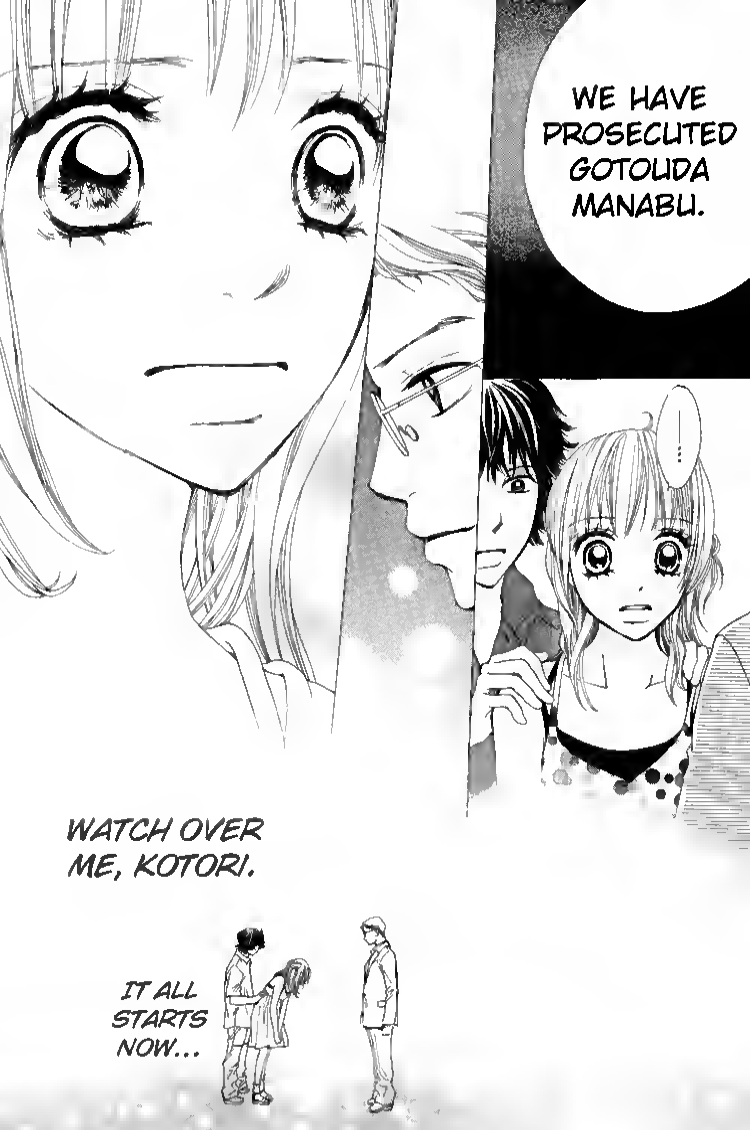
YUUWA...


I HAVE TO GO BACK TO BEING KOTORI NOW.
IT'S ALREADY BEEN 5 MINUTES.
.....

UN ...
STUPID YUUWA,
ACTING ALL DEPENDABLE AND MANLY ALL OF A SUDDEN.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ANYTHING BY MYSELF NOW?
THERE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A TIME LIMIT.

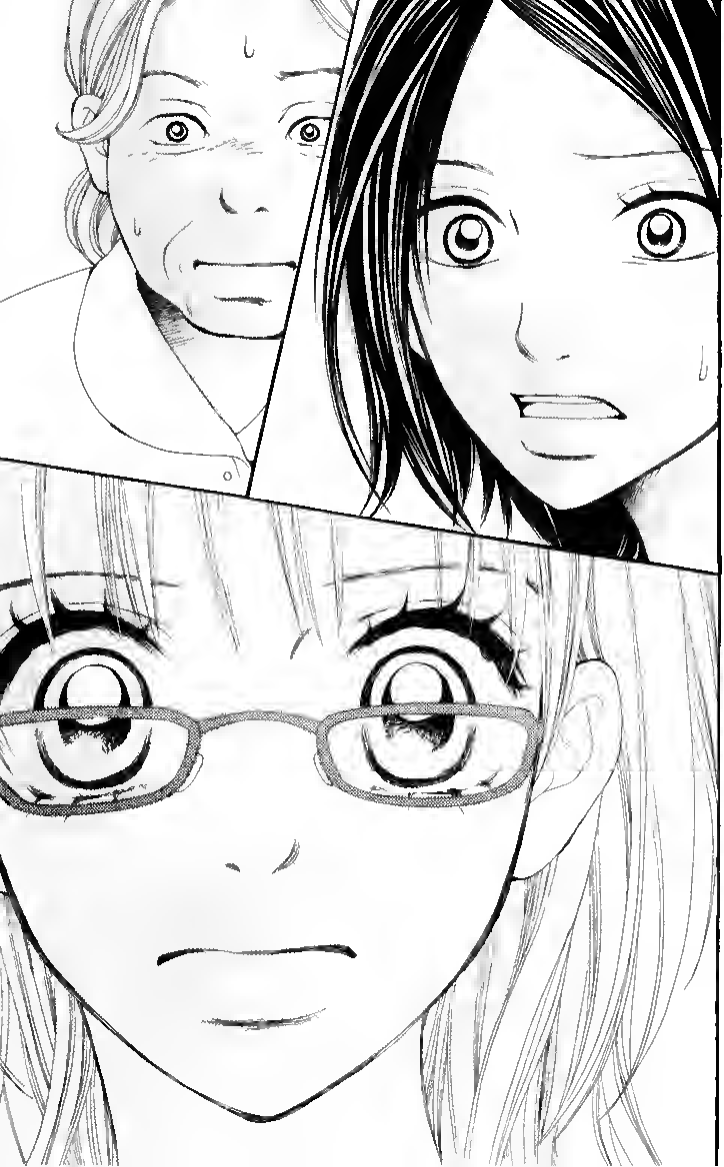
We can't.
Kon
THAT'S RIGHT,
IT'D BE TROUBLESOME IF SOMEONE SAW US
Someone's coming!
OH, IT'S THE DETECTIVE.

WHAT...?
.....


WE HAVE PROSECUTED GOTOUDA MANABU.
...
WATCH OVER ME, KOTORI.
IT ALL STARTS NOW...

A month and a half after the prosecution,
the first hearing took place.
The court was full of people wanting to know
the truth about the
'Tokyo High-School Girl Murder Case'.

I slipped in a picture of Kotori behind the picture of myself.
I WILL LISTEN TO EVERY-THING,
ESPECIALLY GOTOUDA MANABU'S SENTENCE.
Kacha



Gotouda Manabu,
the man who killed Kotori.
GIVE NOBARA BACK TO US!
YOU MURDER-ER!
NATSU-KO.
PLEASE STAY SEATED
Mom.

I DIDN'T DO IT.

HUH....?

I didn't do it.

Inochi

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WHAT'S WRONG?
SORRY FOR HAVING SUCH SLOW RELEASES WE NEED MORE STAFF...
PLEASE,
JOOOIIIN US!!
WE NEED MORE TRANSLATORS, CLEANERS, TYPESETTERS, AND RAW PROVIDERS/ SCANNERS

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WHAT'S WRONG?
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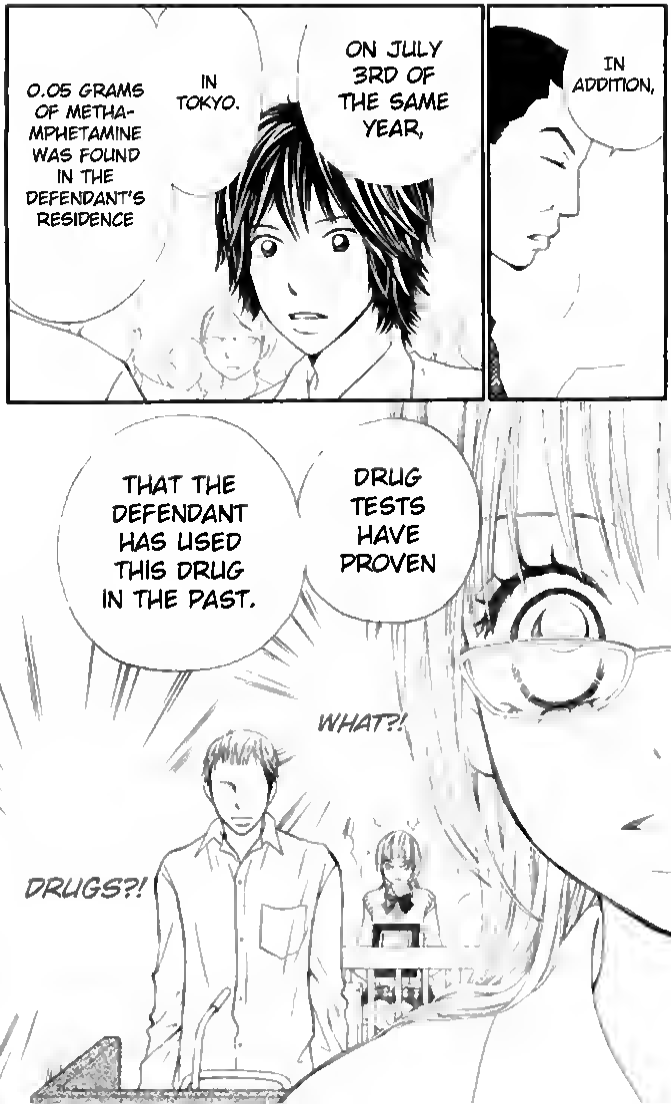
CHAPTER 6 "SANITY TRIAL"

"I DIDN'T DO IT."
WHAT...?
Murmur
Murmur
Murmur
PLEASE REMAIN QUIET.
GIVE NOBARA BACK TO US!
NAT-SUKO.

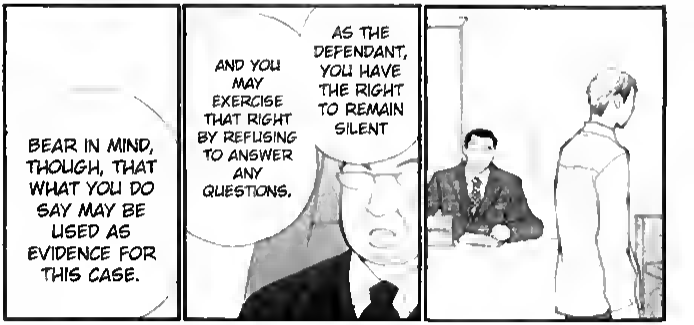
WHY DID HE SAY THAT?!
SIT DOWN, KOTORI.
HE DIDN'T DO IT?
HAA
HAA
BEAR WITH IT,
OR ELSE YOU'LL BE KICKED OUT.
WE WILL NOW BEGIN THE HEARING.
WOULD THE DEFENDANT PLEASE COME FORTH?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WEREN'T YOU
THE ONE WHO KILLED KOTORI?!

THE FACTS ARE AS FOLLOWS...
THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE ON JUNE 29TH, 2008, AT AROUND 7:00 PM,
IN THE BUSHES NEAR 4TH STREET IN TOKYO'S NAKANO DISTRICT.
THE DEFENDANT KILLED 16-YEAR OLD SUZUKI NOBARA
BY
WRAPPING HIS HANDS AROUND HER NECK AND STRANGLING HER.
THE VICTIM DIED ON THE SCENE DUE TO SUFFOCA-TION.


IN ADDITION,
ON JULY 3RD OF THE SAME YEAR,
IN TOKYO.
0.05 GRAMS OF METHA-MPHETAMINE WAS FOUND IN THE DEFENDANT'S RESIDENCE
DRUG TESTS HAVE PROVEN
THAT THE DEFENDANT HAS USED THIS DRUG IN THE PAST.
WHAT?!
DRUGS?!

THE DEFENDANT IS CURRENTLY FACING TWO POSSIBLE CHARGES.
THE FIRST CHARGE IS MURDER, UNDER SECTION 199 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE.
THE SECOND IS POSSESSION AND USE OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES, UNDER SECTION 41 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE.
THAT IS ALL FOR THE FACTS. THE TRIAL MAY BEGIN.


AS THE DEFENDANT, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT
AND YOU MAY EXERCISE THAT RIGHT BY REFUSING TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.
BEAR IN MIND, THOUGH, THAT WHAT YOU DO SAY MAY BE USED AS EVIDENCE FOR THIS CASE.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY?
YES.
DID YOU HEAR THE FACTS AND CHARGES THAT WERE JUST STATED?
...
ABOUT THE MURDER ...

I DIDN'T DO IT.
Murmur
HE DIDN'T DO IT?!
WHAT IS HE SAYING?
I USED 0.5 GRAMS OF METHAM-PHETAMINE
ON JUNE 29TH AT THE CRIME SCENE.
THERE IS ALSO A MISTAKE IN YOUR REPORT.
HE USED DRUGS RIGHT BEFORE THE INCIDENT?!

AND WHAT IS THE DEFENSE'S OPINION?
IT IS THE SAME AS THE DEFEN-DANT'S.
EVEN IF THE DEFENDANT IS PROVEN GUILTY OF THE MURDER,
HE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN A STATE OF MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL DISARRAY WHILE COMMITTING THE CRIME
DUE TO THE AMOUNT OF METHAM-PHETAMINE TAKEN.
THERE-FORE,

MY DEFENDANT PLEADS NOT GUILTY.
NO WAY...

"My defendant pleads not guilty."
WAIT A MINUTE!
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO DEFEND THAT MAN?

ARE YOU SAYING HE DIDN'T KILL MY SISTER?
HOW WOULD ANYONE BELIEVE SUCH A STUPID STORY?!
DIDN'T GOTOUDA TAKE THE DRUGS ON HIS OWN FREE WILL?
HOW CAN YOU PLEAD FOR HIS INNOCENCE ...?
ISN'T HE SUPPOSED TO SAY, "I WILL ACCEPT ANY PUNISHMENT"
OR "PLEASE KILL ME TO ATONE FOR MY CRIMES"?!

I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PROTECT THE DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS.
BECAUSE THAT IS MY JOB.
WHY ARE YOU EVEN STANDING UP FOR THAT MURDERER?
WHAT...?
RIGHTS? ARE YOU SERIOUS?
WHAT KIND OF RIGHTS COULD A MURDERER POSSIBLY HAVE?

HOW
IS THIS POSSIBLE...?
Room 407
AROUND 1000, NO, 2000 PEOPLE SURROUNDED ME...
THEY WERE ALL LAUGHING AND TELLING ME TO KILL HER.

Gotouda claimed he took a heavy dose of metham-phetamine that day.
MY BODY WAS AS SMALL AS AN ANT
AND I FELT MYSELF BEING WASHED AWAY BY THE RAIN.
and couldn't remember anything that happened after he took the drug.
there wouldn't have been a need for a sanity trial, according to the judge.
If there had not been evidence of him taking drugs before the incident
HE'S USING EVERY TRICK IN THE BOOK TO CLASSIFY HIMSELF AS MENTALLY UNSTABLE...

...YES
Investigation Room
HE TOOK TEN BAGS ALL AT ONCE IN FRONT OF THE PUBLIC TOILETS IN THE PARK.
ARE YOU SURE YOU SAW THIS?
but the drug dealer who supplied him with the drug stood as a witness
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CRIME,
A HOUSEWIFE SAW
THE DEFENDANT DAZED AND WOBBLING OUT FROM THE BUSHES
Regarding the Killing of a Tokyo High School Girl
Gotouda Manabu (21) Faced With Sanity Trial
Even though the trial continued for another 8 months, most newspapers no longer considered the murder a major headline.

IT'S RIDICULOUS TO HAVE A LAW WHERE
WOULDN'T IT BE WORSE IF YOU KILLED SOMEONE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS?
"THE MENTALLY UNSTABLE" CAN'T BE CHARGED!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE GOT AWAY JUST BECAUSE HE TOOK A DOSE OF METHAM-PHETAMINE!
THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY DRUG-USER IN THE PAST 20 YEARS WHO WAS DEEMED MENTALLY UNSTABLE AND PROVEN INNOCENT.
That's what the detective said, anyway...
IT'LL BE FINE.
DOES THAT MEAN KOTORI'S DEATH MEANS NOTHING TO THEM?
Does it?

Ba-thump
SO WHAT?
THE FACT THAT THIS STUPID LAW EXISTS MEANS THERE'S STILL A POSSIBILITY,
RIGHT?!
THERE ARE ALL THESE NEW LAWS*
LIKE THE ADDITION OF A JURY
AND ALLOWING THE VICTIM'S FAMILY TO SIT WITH THE PROSECUTOR ...
THERE'S NO POINT IN ALL THESE NEW LAWS!
NONE OF THEM CAN HELP US NOW.

T/N*: Japan didn't have a Jury vote until 2009. The victim's family originally had to sit in the back with other normal people attending the trial.

HOW LONG IS THIS TRIAL GOING TO LAST?!
GOTOUDA JUST KEEPS COMING UP WITH EXCUSES.
THE TRIAL IS TEMPORARILY PUT ON HOLD WHILE HIS SANITY EXAMINATION RESULTS ARE BEING PROCESSED.
CAN WE REALLY WIN LIKE THIS? IS EVERYTHING REALLY GOING TO BE FINE?!
Is it?
Spit-take
Wow.
....
Nobara...

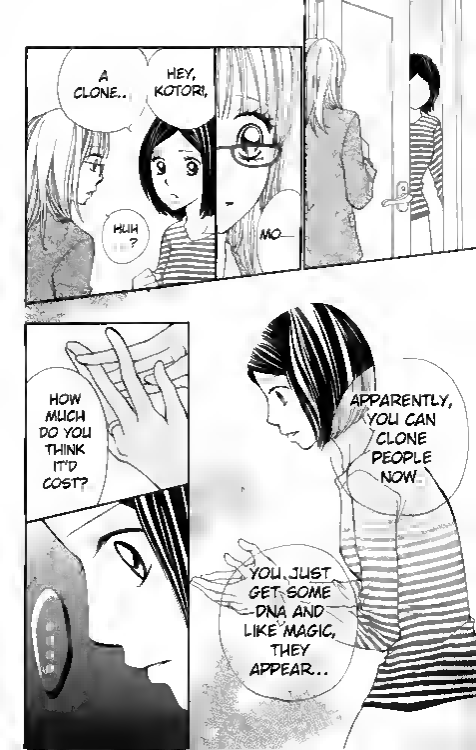
Shit
Doki
Release
Wow!
WOW WOW!
IT'S THE GUYS FROM LAST YEAR'S CLASS C.
Oh no!
NICE WEATHER TODAY, HUH? HAHAHA
WE DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING.
Hahaha
DAMN, THAT YUUWA ...
HE'S GOING FOR THE TWIN SISTER NOW.
That was her, right?
Whisper
Whisper
WELL, THEY DO HAVE THE SAME FACE
so I guess it's fair game.
See ya!
Uu

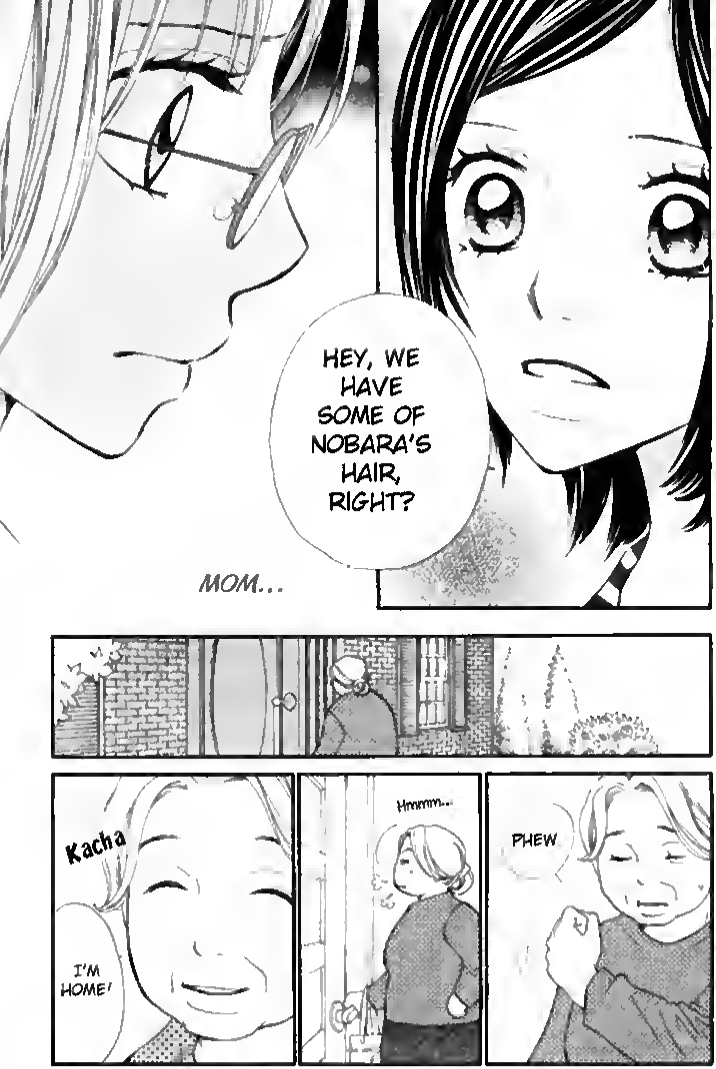
I'M SORRY, I'LL JUST MAKE UP SOME EXCUSE.
RUMORS ARE GOING TO START SPREADING
.....
Oh, NOBA
I HAVE TO GO HOME NOW.
Gran isn't home tonight.

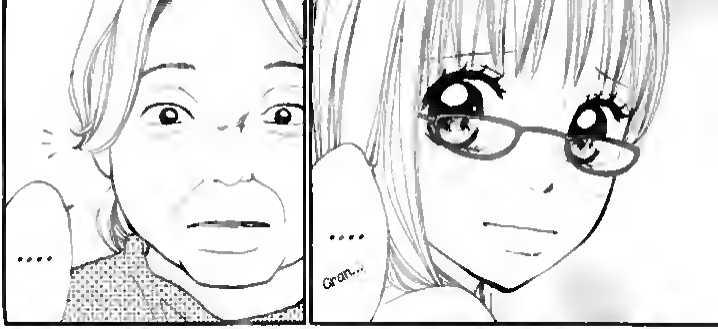
BYE, YUUWA-KUN.
I CAN'T LET KOTORI DOWN..
NOBARA
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR HER..
Damn it.

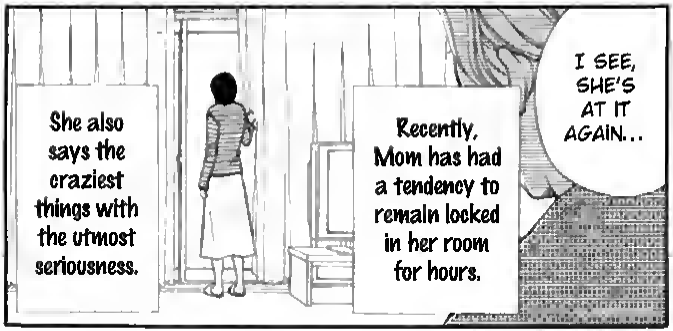
SFX - KACHA
カチャ
SFX - INHALE
MOM, I'M HOME!

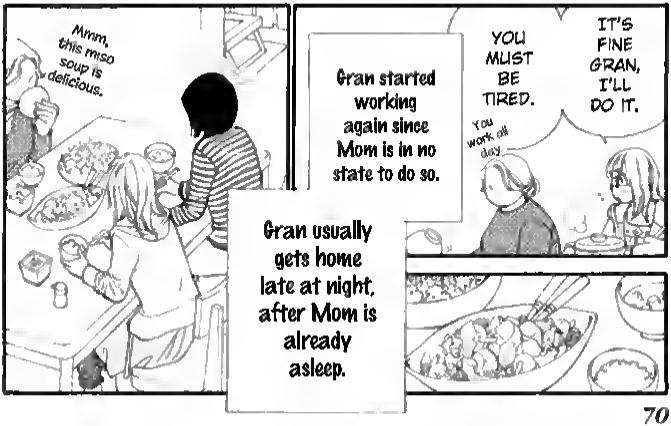
AGAIN?
MOM, I'M HOME.
I JUST CAME BACK.
Knock Knock
I'M COMING IN.
MOM?

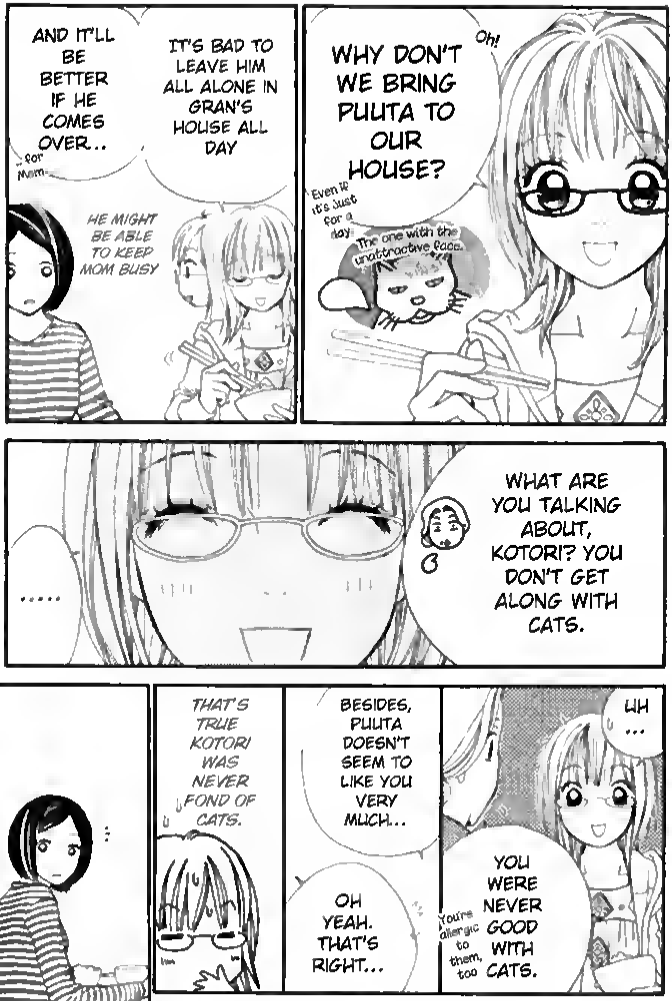

A CLONE..
HEY, KOTORI,
HUH ??
MO
HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK IT'D COST?
APPARENTLY, YOU CAN CLONE PEOPLE NOW..
YOU JUST GET SOME DNA AND LIKE MAGIC, THEY APPEAR..


HEY, WE HAVE SOME OF NOBARA'S HAIR, RIGHT?
MOM...
Kacha
I'M HOME!
Hmmm...
PHEW


....
....
Gran...


She also says the craziest things with the utmost seriousness.
Recently, Mom has had a tendency to remain locked in her room for hours.
I SEE, SHE'S AT IT AGAIN...


Mmm, this miso soup is delicious.
Gran started working again since Mom is in no state to do so.
YOU MUST BE TIRED.
You work all day.
IT'S FINE GRAN, I'LL DO IT.
Gran usually gets home late at night, after Mom is already asleep.


AND IT'LL BE BETTER IF HE COMES OVER..
..for Mom.
IT'S BAD TO LEAVE HIM ALL ALONE IN GRAN'S HOUSE ALL DAY
HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO KEEP MOM BUSY
WHY DON'T WE BRING PUUTA TO OUR HOUSE?
Even if it's just for a day.
The one with the unattractive face.
Oh!
.....
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KOTORI? YOU DON'T GET ALONG WITH CATS.
THAT'S TRUE KOTORI WAS NEVER FOND OF CATS.
BESIDES, PUUTA DOESN'T SEEM TO LIKE YOU VERY MUCH...
OH YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT...
You're allergic to them, too
UH ...
YOU WERE NEVER GOOD WITH CATS.

THAT IS
MOM...?
IT'S HIM!
GOTOUDA'S LAWYER!
From Guilty to Innocent!
TODAY, WE'RE INTERVIEWING A LAWYER WHO'S DEFENDING A SERIAL KILLER.
HE OVERTURNED A DEATH SENTENCE BY HAVING THE COURT DEEM HIS CLIENT MENTALLY INSANE.
WE'RE GOING TO ASK MR F* MANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS CASE.

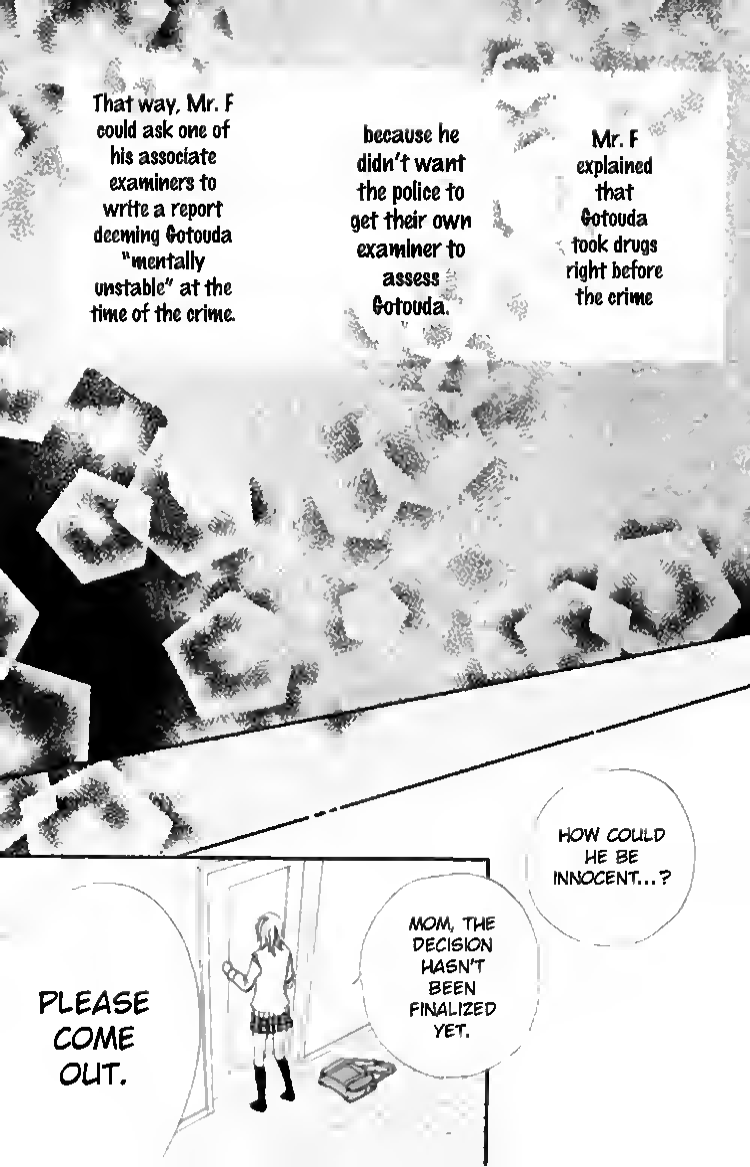
T/N* - Often to protect the lawyer's identity from vengeful victims, their names are not fully disclosed on the news.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGES IN MODERN LAW IS THAT SENTENCES ARE ONLY GIVEN TO THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GIVEN CRIME.
IF THE ACCUSED WAS MENTALLY UNSTABLE AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENCE, THEY AREN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS AND THUS, CANNOT BE CONVICTED
DESPITE THAT, MR F,
WE HAVE RECENTLY SEEN CASES WHERE PEOPLE WERE DEEMED "MENTALLY UNSTABLE" IN THE PAST AND ESCAPED CONVICTION,
BUT COMMIT THE SAME CRIME AGAIN.
YOU'RE SAYING THERE IS A POSSIBILITY FOR REOFFENDING,
BUT DOESN'T THAT ALSO MEAN THERE IS A POSSIBILITY FOR CORRECTION?
IN GENERAL, WHAT THE ACCUSED NEEDS IS "HELP", NOT "PUNISHMENT"
AND CORRECTION, NOT EXECUTION.
WHAT ABOUT THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES?
I DOUBT THEY'D JUST ACCEPT "CORRECTION" AS A REASON FOR NOT CONVICTING THE PERPETRATOR.
...

EVEN IF WE EXECUTE THE CRIMINAL, YOUR LOVED ONE WILL NOT RETURN.
"EXECUTION" DOESN'T BRING PEACE TO ANYONE.
IT'S TRUE THAT EXECUTIONS WON'T BRING PEACE TO THE FAMILY.
BUT EVEN SO,
I'D RATHER SEE THE CRIMINAL DEAD THAN ALIVE.
NATSUKO
HOW LUCKY ...

THERE ARE SO MANY ESCAPE ROUTES FOR A CRIMINAL.
WHY...?
IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT HE KILLED SOMEONE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT STATE HE WAS IN OR WHY HE COMMITTED THE CRIME,
WHY DOESN'T THE JUDGE EVER RULE A CASE WHERE THE CRIMINAL GETS WHAT HE DESERVES?

There has never been a case in Japanese history where an "insane" defendant received a heavier punishment than a normal defendant faced with the same crime.
In Japan, any criminal deemed mentally unstable always receives a lighter punishment.
I read in a magazine that a "mentality assessment" is nothing more than a written description of ones impression of the defendant.
It is said that by asking certain examiners to write the report, the results can be predetermined.
Even with the same case, different examiners will have different opinions.


That way, Mr. F could ask one of his associate examiners to write a report deeming Gotouda "mentally unstable" at the time of the crime.
because he didn't want the police to get their own examiner to assess Gotouda.
Mr. F explained that Gotouda took drugs right before the crime
HOW COULD HE BE INNOCENT...?
MOM, THE DECISION HASN'T BEEN FINALIZED YET.
PLEASE COME OUT.

MOM,
IT'S TOO EARLY TO GIVE UP.
"THERE ARE SO MANY ESCAPE ROUTES FOR A CRIMINAL."
.....
THERE IS NO "ESCAPE ROUTE" FOR THE VICTIM'S FAMILY...
WE HAVE TO CARRY THIS PAIN AND SORROW
WITH US FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.

MOM?!
Bang
THERE'S SOMETHING BLOCKING THE DOOR
Push
MOM?
THE DOOR ISN'T LOCKED
!?

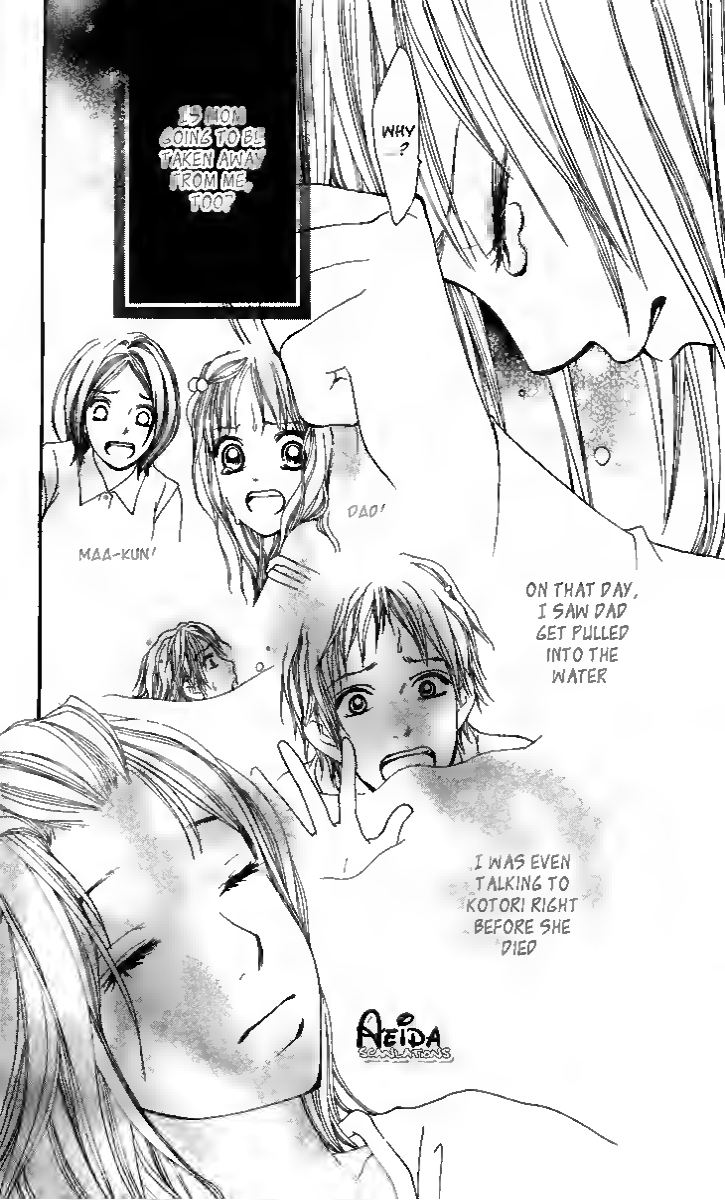
MOM!

SCANNER EDDO-TAN
TRANSLATOR BAD BUNGO
PROOFREADER KAWAILY
CLEANER DANICA
TYPESETTER ILOVELIT
QCER MEYRIN
HTTP://SHOUJO-ADDICTION.JINDO.COM/
HTTP://SHOUJOADDICTION.ZETABOARDS.COM/INDEX/

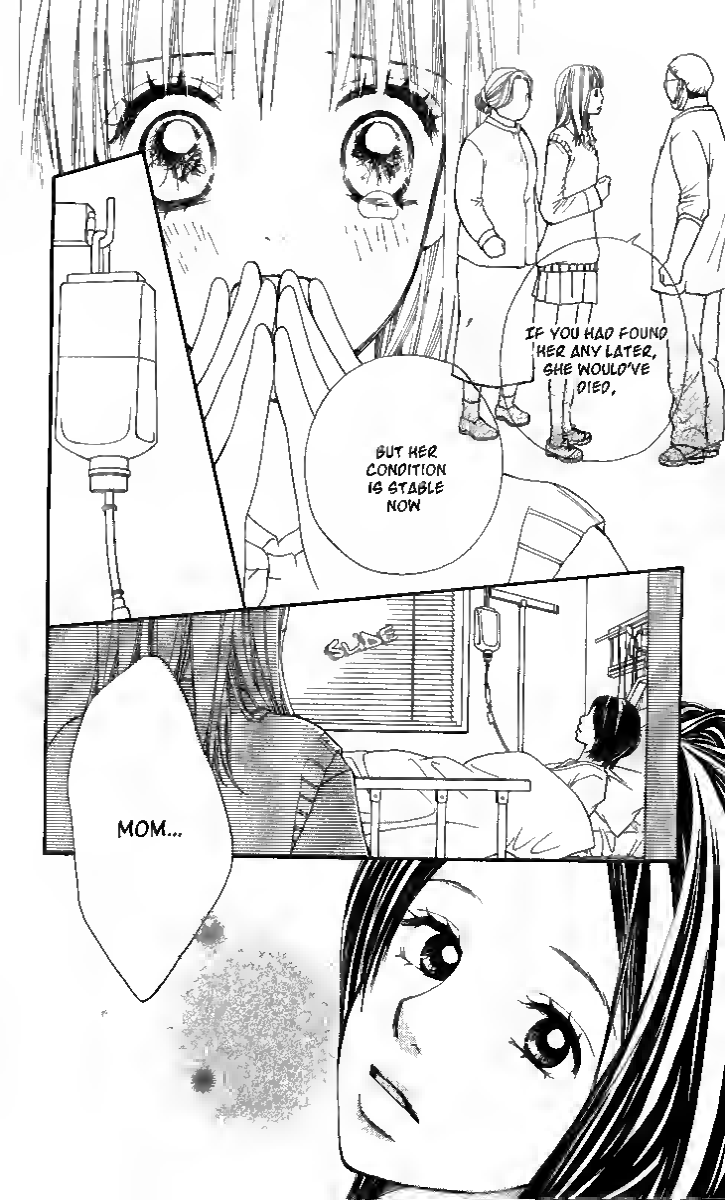
第7話「判決」

MOM!

WHY?!
WHY, MOM?! PLEASE WAKE UP!
AEIDA SIMULATIONS
IT'S OKAY, KOTORI
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, GRANNY?
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY
治療中
総合病院


IS MOM GOING TO BE TAKEN AWAY FROM ME, TOO?
WHY...?
DAD!
MAA-KUN!
ON THAT DAY, I SAW DAD GET PULLED INTO THE WATER
I WAS EVEN TALKING TO KOTORI RIGHT BEFORE SHE DIED
AEIDA SCANLATIONS

A PERSON'S LIFE
CAN END SO SUDDENLY
THE LIGHT IS OFF
HOW'S MY MOM?
UM...


IF YOU HAD FOUND HER ANY LATER, SHE WOULD'VE DIED,
BUT HER CONDITION IS STABLE NOW
SLIDE
MOM...

MOM!
NATSUKO, WHY DID YOU DO SUCH A FOOLISH THING?
NOBARA ?
YOU LOOK A LOT OLDER TOO
Oh no
WHY DID YOU CUT YOUR HAIR ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I FORGOT TO PUT ON MY GLASSES!
BA-THUMP

IS THIS UNIFORM FOR YOUR SCHOOL PLAY?
HEY, WHEN WILL MAA-KUN COME HOME?
MOM...
IT WAS SUCH A SUDDEN BUSINESS TRIP, RIGHT?
I WONDER IF HE'LL MAKE IT ON TIME FOR KOTORI'S PIANO RECITAL

MOM'S MEMORY REVERTED BACK TO FIVE YEARS AGO, BACK TO WHEN DAD WAS STILL ALIVE
AEIDA
THOSE WERE THE HAPPIEST MOMENTS OF HER LIFE

THE NEXT DAY
The final judgment will be made here, in No. 407 Tokyo District Court,
regarding the case of Nobere-san's murder
It is expected that Gotoude, the defendant, will be penalized by death
MOM, I'M LEAVING NOW

MOM...
OH, TAKE CARE KOTORI
MOM,
SORRY, I'M NOT REALLY GOING TO SCHOOL TODAY...
CLOSE
THIS TIME SHE SEES ME AS KOTORI, HUH?

裁判所
GOOD LUCK!
YEAH!
Good luck, Kotori-chan!
It's okay
I'M SURE HE'LL GET A DEATH PENALTY

T/N P E means psychiatric evaluation
HE'LL PROBABLY JUST GET LIFETIME JAILING
THE P E STATED THAT GOTOUDA WASN'T GUILTY OF THE CRIME, RIGHT?
Of course.
WHO KNEW THERE'D BE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE, HUH?
HEY, ONII-CHAN, YOU MISSED THE SHOW TOO?
HE ONLY KILLED ONE PERSON ANYWAY
Aeida
DO YOU THINK GOTOUDA SHOULD GET A DEATH PENALTY?
DON'T YOU THINK THE DEATH PENALTY IS TOO CRUEL OF A PUNISHMENT?
Oh, Kotori-san finally came out!

NOBA-RA!
PLEASE STAY BACK!
THE DEATH PENALTY IS BASICALLY THE SAME THING AS HOMICIDE!
ay no to h penalty!!
IT'S TOO CRUEL OF A PUNISHMENT
THE DEATH PENALTY IS THE SAME THING AS HOMICIDE
HE'S THE CRUEL ONE.

HE USED DRUGS JUST SO HE COULD PLEASURE HIMSELF
AND UNLUCKILY, KOTORI WAS NEAR HIM AT THE TIME.
HE USED HER.
IF YOU THINK ABOUT ALL THE PAIN KOTORI HAD TO GO THROUGH
AND THE FUTURE SHE THAT WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM HER.
YOU'D UNDERSTAND WHY HE DESERVES SUCH A HEAVY PUNISHMENT.
AEIDA SCANLATIONS

WOULD THE DEFENDANT PLEASE COME FORWARD?

GOTOUDA MANAGU?
I WILL NOW ANNOUNCE YOUR PUNISHMENT
YES

IF IT WAS POSSIBLE, I'D EVEN BE THERE TO SEE YOU AT THE MOMENT OF YOUR DEATH!
THE JUDGE WILL DEFINITELY GIVE GOTOWDA A DEATH PENALTY!

THE COURT HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE DEFENDANT IS FOUND NOT GUILTY

WHA...?!
ガタッ
HOW CAN THIS BE...?
WHY IS HE NOT GUILTY?!

HOW COULD A MURDERER BE FOUND NOT GUILTY?!
EVEN IF I DON'T FULLY REMEMBER THE INCIDENT, I SAW YOU STRANGLE HER!
IT'S YOUR FAULT YOU TOOK THOSE DRUGS AND MURDERED HER!
WHY IS THIS BLOODY MURDERER NOT GUILTY?
YOU KILLED MY LITTLE SISTER!
THE AUDIENCE MUST REMAIN QUIET!
PLEASE, SIT DOWN.
GOTOUDA!!

IF YOU CONTINUE SPEAKING WITHOUT PERMISSION,
YOU SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THIS COURT
JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T REMEMBER KILLING HER DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE NOT GUILTY OF THE MURDER!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS?
TELL THEM!
TELL THEM YOU DESERVE TO DIE!!

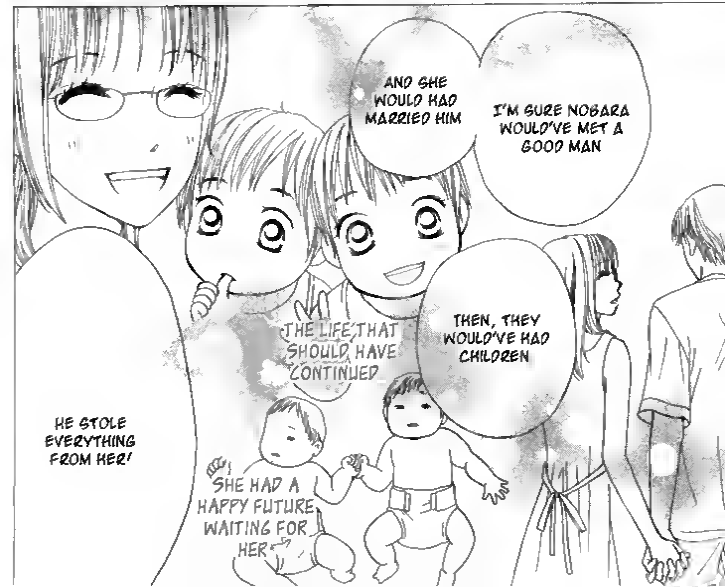
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE LUCKY BECAUSE YOU'RE FOUND NOT GUILTY?!
TURN AROUND AND FACE ME!
SILENCE, PLEASE
I DEMAND A RETRIAL!
GOTOUDA IS LYING!
JUST SO HE COULD BE FOUND INNOCENT.
HE USED METHAMPHETAMINE AFTER HE KILLED HER
AEIDA SERVILANTIONS

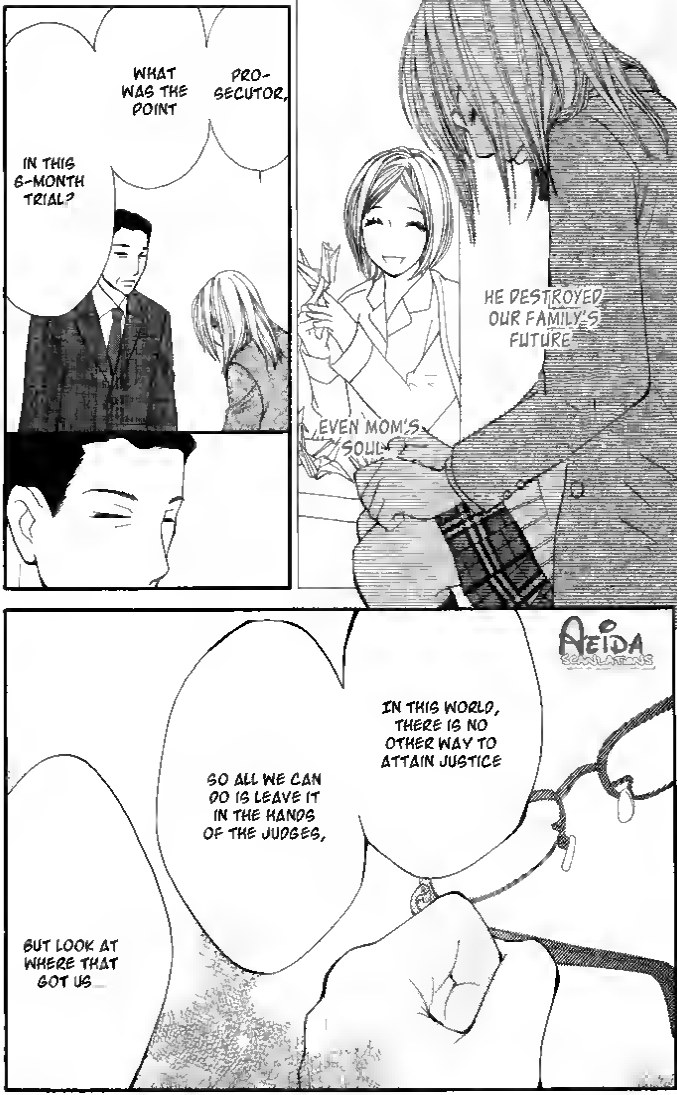
GUARDS! REMOVE THE YOUNG LADY FROM THE COURT.
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
THERE'S NO WAY THIS MAN IS INNOCENT!

検察庁
AFTER YOU LEFT, THE JUDGE EXPLAINED WHY HE WAS FOUND NOT GUILTY.
THAT BASTARD SMILED
HE SMILED AT ME!
HE DOESN'T FEEL BAD ABOUT KILLING HER AT ALL!

KOTORI, LET'S LISTEN TO HIS EXPLANATION
THE PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION IS REALLY—
WHAT KIND OF LOGIC IS THIS?
PEOPLE WHO SUPPOSEDLY UNAWARE OF THEIR ACTIONS CAN'T BE PUNISHED?
IS IT BECAUSE YOU CAN'T GET A DEATH PENALTY UNLESS YOU KILL MORE THAN TWO PEOPLE?!
UGH...
He didn't just take a single person's life.

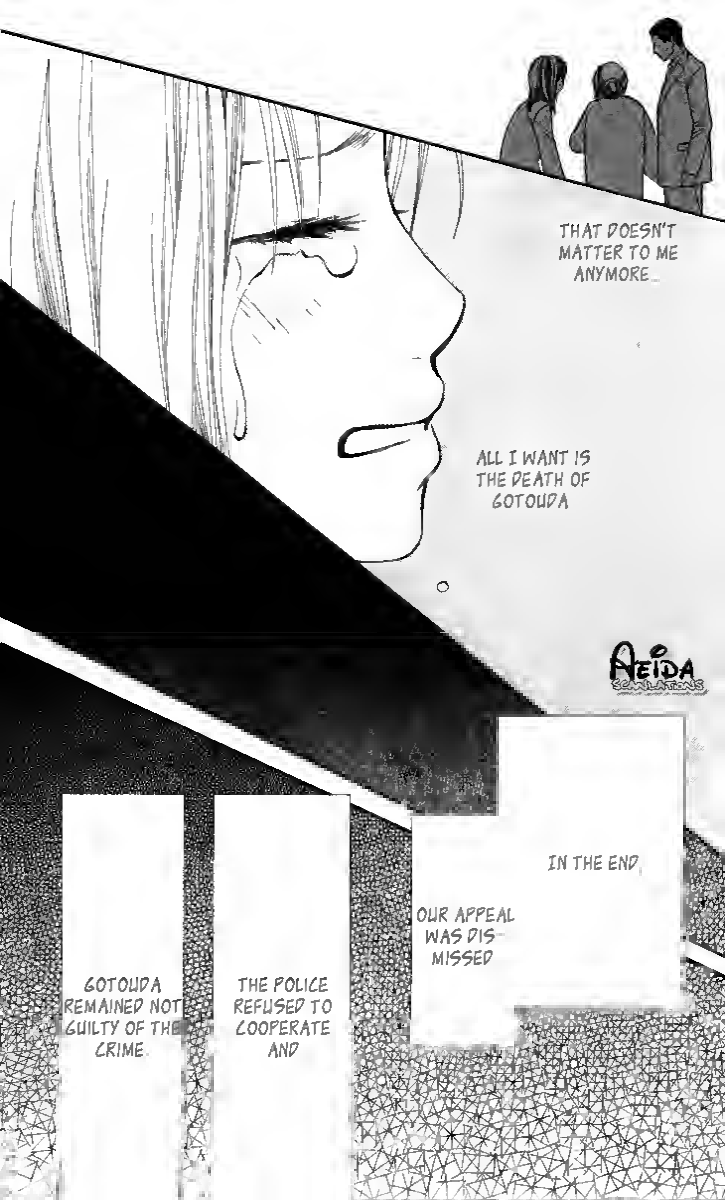
IT'S NOT JUST ONE PERSON...
THAT BASTARD DIDN'T KILL ONLY HER
EH...?
KOTORI...


AND SHE WOULD HAD MARRIED HIM
I'M SURE NOBARA WOULD'VE MET A GOOD MAN
THE LIFE THAT SHOULD HAVE CONTINUED
THEN, THEY WOULD'VE HAD CHILDREN
HE STOLE EVERYTHING FROM HER!
SHE HAD A HAPPY FUTURE WAITING FOR HER


WHAT WAS THE POINT
PROSECUTOR,
IN THIS 6-MONTH TRIAL?
HE DESTROYED OUR FAMILY'S FUTURE
EVEN MOM'S SOUL
IN THIS WORLD, THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO ATTAIN JUSTICE
SO ALL WE CAN DO IS LEAVE IT IN THE HANDS OF THE JUDGES,
BUT LOOK AT WHERE THAT GOT US...
AEIDA

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
I'LL HAVE TO GO AND KILL HIM MYSELF!
IF THERE'S NO WAY FOR HIM GET A DEATH PENALTY,
IF I ONLY KILL ONE PERSON I WON'T GET A DEATH PENALTY, RIGHT?
UGH
I'M ALSO GOING TO BE OUT OF MY SENSES WHEN I KILL HIM!

IF I'M UNABLE TO CONTROL MY ACTIONS, IT DOESN'T COUNT AS MURDER, RIGHT?
WILL YOU HAVE FAITH IN US ONCE AGAIN?
THAT'S WHY, SUZUKI-SAN
SO WE CAN HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE AT PROVING HIM GUILTY OF THE CRIME
WE'RE GOING TO FILE AN APPEAL


THAT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME ANYMORE.
ALL I WANT IS THE DEATH OF GOTOUDA
AEIDA SCANLATIONS
IN THE END
OUR APPEAL WAS DISMISSED
GOTOUDA REMAINED NOT GUILTY OF THE CRIME.
THE POLICE REFUSED TO COOPERATE AND

Welcome!
AFTER THAT, GOTOUDA WENT MISSING
BEFORE I HAD THE CHANCE TO FULLY AVENGE KOTORI.
Welcome!
Ah
YUUWA
YOU WORK IN SUCH A CUTE SHOP~
It doesn't suit you at all
How'd you find out about this place?
Is he Suzuki-san's boyfriend?!
Who's that guy?
Isn't he from Kita High?

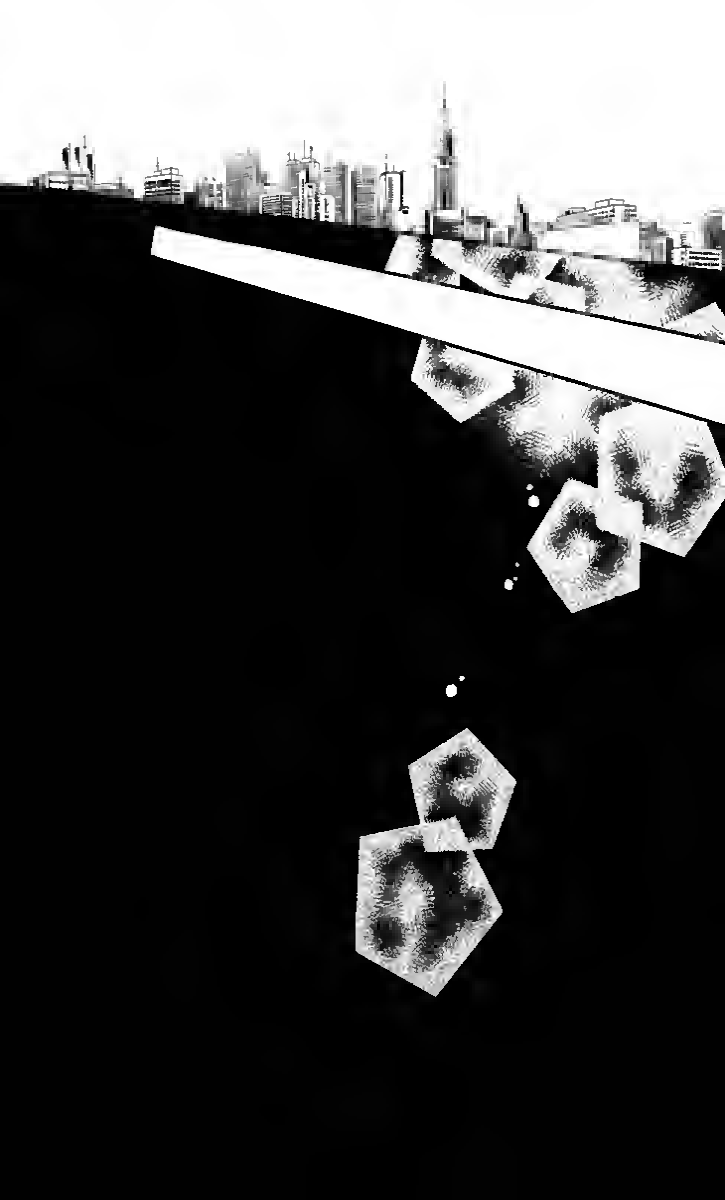
BE CAREFUL, THOUGH HE'S PRETTY DANGEROUS, YOU KNOW
Then introduce me to him!
He's so cute~
HE HASN'T DATED SINCE HE LOST HIS GIRLFRIEND 2 YEARS AGO
NO
AEIDA
SIMULATIONS
THERE'S A SAYING THAT THE KILLER'S SIN SHALL BE REPENTED
THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING NOW, RIGHT?
I'M GOING TO LIVE KOTORI'S LIFE FOR HER
IF SHE WAS ALIVE, SHE WOULD'VE DEFINITELY WORKED HERE.
KOTORI ALWAYS LIKED SOAP AND CUTE LITTLE THINGS.

YUUWA
YUUWA-KUN,
IT'S NOT LIKE MY FAMILY WILL HATE YOU IF YOU DO
GET A NEW GIRLFRIEND AND FORGET ABOUT MY SISTER ALREADY
AFTER ALL, THE ONE WHO STOLE KOTORI'S LIFE WAS ME
HEY, WAIT!
NOGARA!

WHA
I WANT YUUWA-KUN TO BE HAPPY
IF YOU KEEP PRETENDING TO BE KOTORI-CHAN THEN I'LL-
HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO
KEEP CHASING AFTER YOU INSTEAD
I'M KOTORI NOW SO I CAN NO LONGER BE WITH YUUWA
OW!

AH, I'M SOR
THAT GUY DROPPED HIS WALLET.
Gotouda Manabu
EH?

NO WAY...
GOTOUDA IS THE CITY?!
HE'S ACTUALLY HERE?!



Translator: Melanie

Proof Reader: Aelda

Editor: Aelda

Quality Checker: Melanie

We're I'm alive
need of your
baby
AEIDA.TUMBLR.COM

Chapter 8: The Reunion

第8話「再会」

Spash

ガーラ花の台
HERE
That guy lives here.

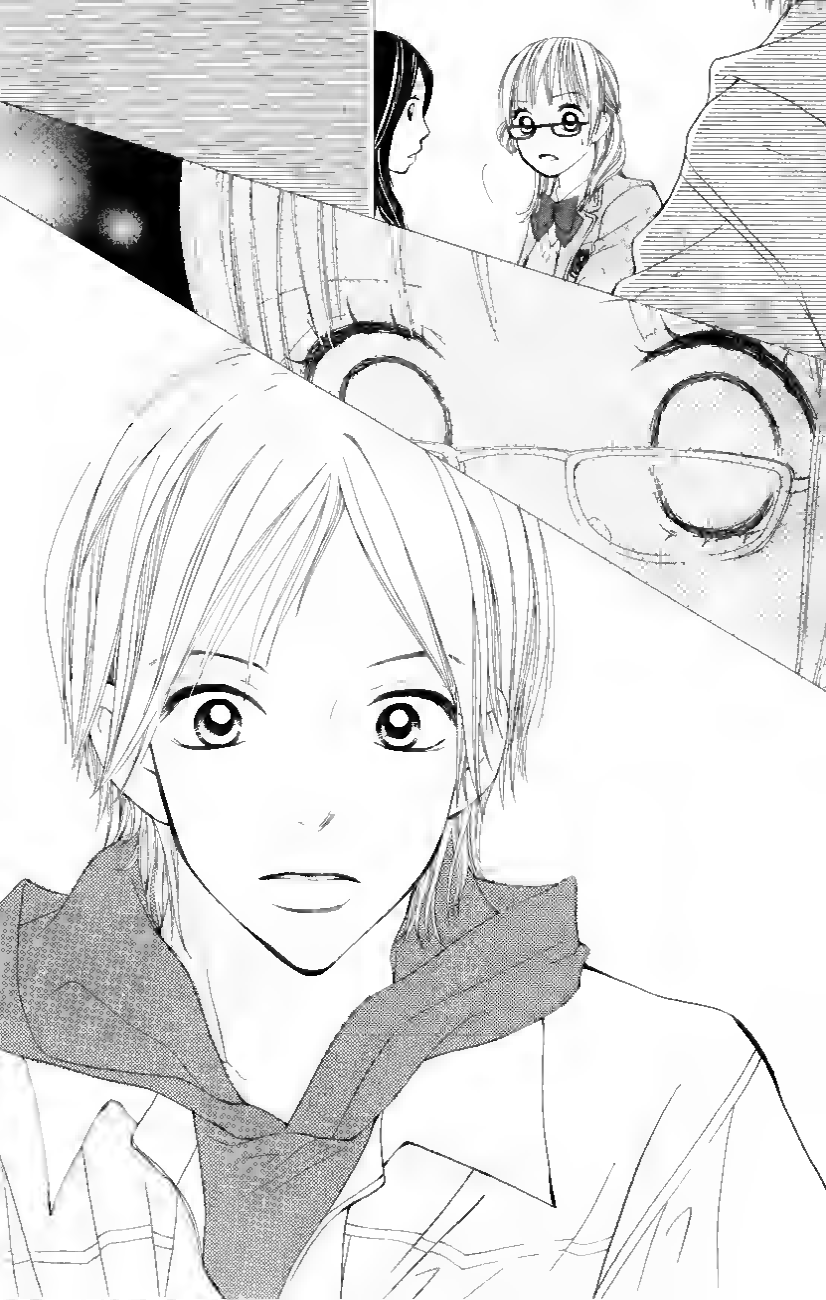
THE ACCUSED IS INNOCENT.
Driver's License
運転免許証
Why?
How is the murderer innocent?
For a murderer to become innocent, to say this, the law is strange.
This judgement is wrong!
The guy who killed Kotori.

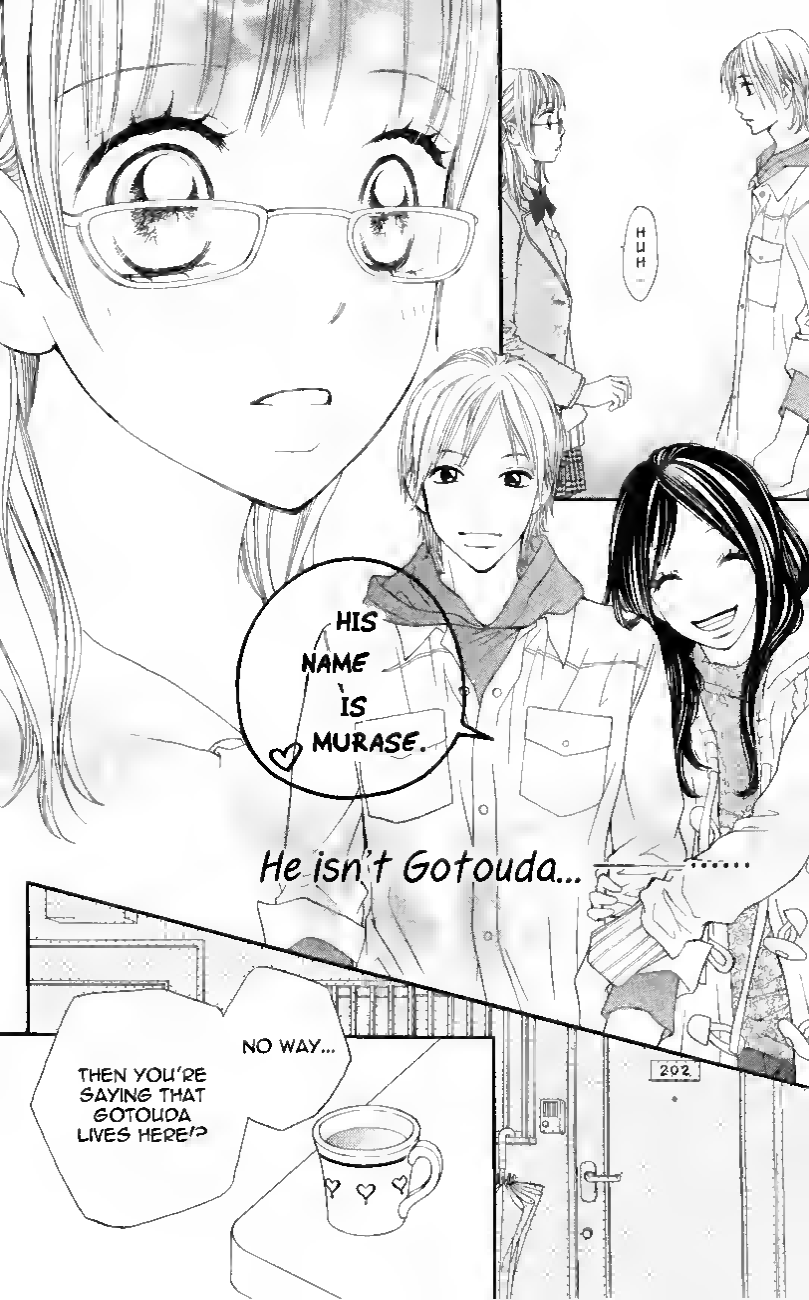
Gotouda
Manabu
TSU..
CLENCH
drip
drip
He's
inside.
He just
got home.

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
....
TREMBLE
But...
If I meet him, what should I do?
What should I do?
BATTLE
drip
rattle
drip
H... he's coming out.

Hah
HYA
Hah
DASH
GRAB
IT'S SOLD AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE, RIGHT...?
K...
KOTORI..!!

KOTORI ??
Huh. But.
Why did you come out of there?
Wwwhy are you..?
W Why..?
Hime...
A...
MY HIME- WHAT'S WRONG?
Boyfriend!? You mean this place is..?
Bo..
?
THIS IS MY BOYFRIEND'S PLACE




HUH-
HIS NAME IS MURASE.
He isn't Gotouda... ——.....
202
NO WAY...
THEN YOU'RE SAYING THAT GOTOUDA LIVES HERE!?

IT'S A LIE RIGHT? THIS IS A COINCI-DENCE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
HEY, MURASE LET'S MOVE.
THAT GUY LIVED HERE. IT'S HORRIBLE
Y.. YEAH..
RIGHT?
THE GUY WHO KILLED MY PRE-CIOUS FRIEND...
I WILL NEVER FORGIVE HIM.
....
BUT K.. KOTORI-
WHAT DID YOU INTEND TO DO IF YOU MET HIM?
Hime-chan.
I UNDER-STAND MY HIME
AAA...
WE WILL BE OK SOMEHOW

I DON'T KNOW.
I REALISED AND CAME HERE BUT...
THAT GUY... THE DAY HIS TRIAL FINISHED HE WAS ABLE TO GO HOME JUST LIKE THAT.
THERE IS A PRISON SENTENCE OF LESS THAN 15 YEARS FOR USING DRUGS.
THE TRIAL PERIOD WAS LONGER THAN THAT SO
HE WAS PARDONED.
THAT MURDERER WON'T EVEN GO TO PRISON.
THAT HE CAN BE LIVING A NORMAL LIFE AROUND HERE IS UNTHINKABLE RIGHT!?

THAT GUY WAS JUDGED AND ACQUITTED.
THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN IT.
IT WILL NEVER END FOR ME.
FOR ME NOTHING HAS ENDED.
THIS IS THE CHANCE GIVEN TO ME.
I found it.
This miraculous coincidence...
THAT GUY HIMSELF DROPPED THIS LICENSE
BUT HE SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE NEARBY
Don't you think?
AS EXPECTED, HE DOESN'T LIVE IN THE SAME PLACE RIGHT...

REVENGE.
SQUEEZE
WHAT CHANCE_?
CHANCE_?
Kotori-chan

pick
KOTORI-CHAN
LEND THIS TO ME.
Huh
I CAN PROBABLY FIND OUT THIS GUY'S ADDRESS.
IF I TAKE THIS AND SAY "HE LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND".
IT'S MORE NATURAL IF I GO, DON'T YOU THINK?

TO ACT BY YOURSELF WITHOUT THINKING ISN'T ANY GOOD.
Right, Kotori-chan?
nod
I get it Hime-chan
LET MURASE-KUN TAKE CARE OF THE REST
WHEN WE KNOW MORE ABOUT THE GUY WE'LL CONTACT YOU
OK
OK
OK
I'LL ENTRUST IT TO YOU
I'LL
"IF IT'S JUST ME I WON'T RECEIVE THE DEATH PENALTY"
"I WILL ALSO TAKE DRUGS AND THEN I WILL KILL HIM."
"IF SOMEHOW HE DOESN'T RECEIVE THE DEATH PENALTY, I'LL KILL HIM"

RIGHT NOW, MY FEELINGS ABOUT THAT DAY ARE UNCHANGED.
If justice is not administered I will, these hands, administer justice.
Even if that guy dies, Kotori won't come back.
Even so...
EVEN SO I WILL
HUH.

THE REALTOR SAYS HE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE THAT GUY MOVED TO...
I ALSO WENT TO CHECK THE PERMANENT ADDRESS LISTED ON HIS LICENSE BUT...
IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE, IT'S VACANT...
His movement from that address is also unknown
His neighbours also said they didn't know
THAT'S...
I THINK PURSUING THAT GUY BEYOND THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE
Even though that guy was so close just before
BUT HE SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE THAT FAR
Definitely
KOTORI-CHAN
MY HIME IS ALSO WORRIED
I THINK TO CONTINUE BEYOND THIS IS DANGEROUS.
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...
FOR YOU TO SPEND YOUR LIFE RESENTFUL LIKE THIS IS TOO MUCH RIGHT...
THINGS LIKE "REVENGE"

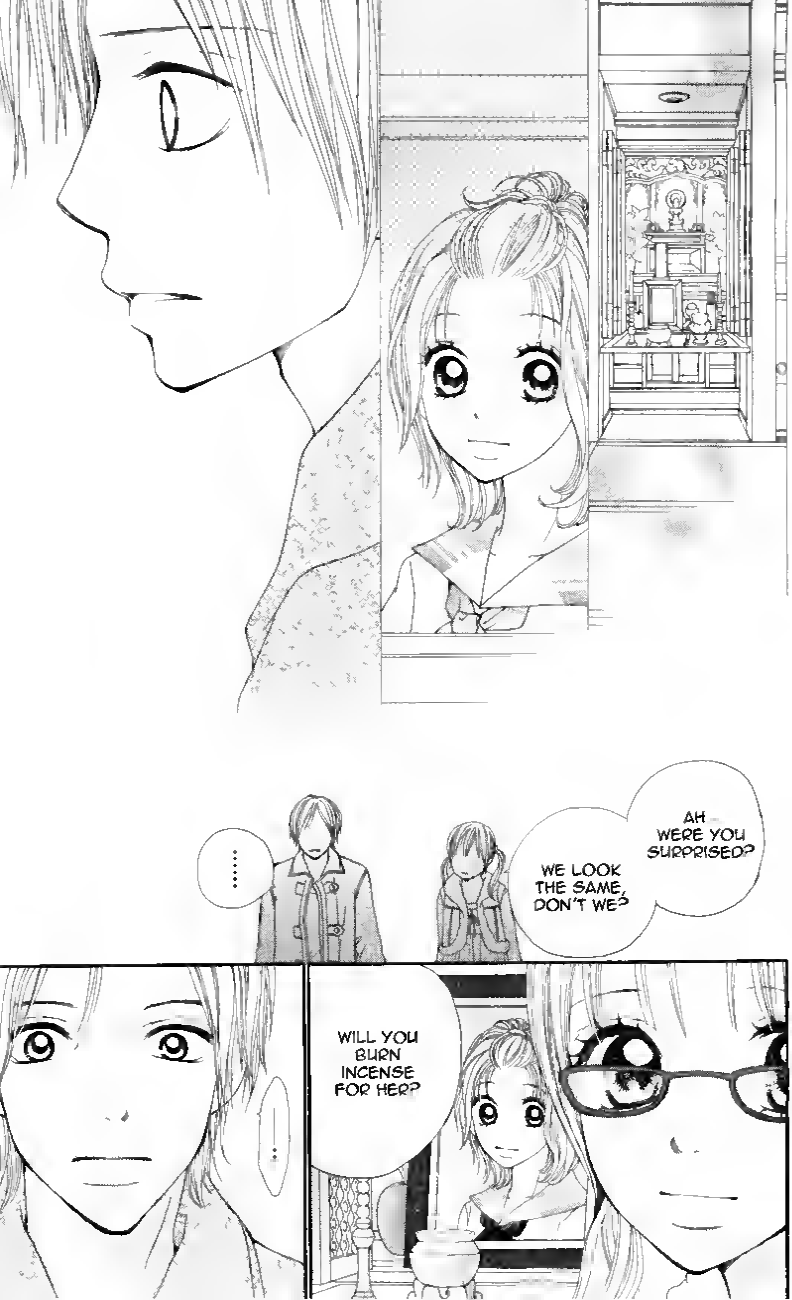
ISN'T THAT A BIGGER REVENGE THAN ANYTHING ELSE?
FOR YOU TO BECOME HAPPIER THAN THAT GUY...
Ah...
What do you know!?
Every-one said the same thing.
But how do I become happy!?
It's that guy's fault that my mother even now, is like an empty shell!
It's Gotouda's fault
.....

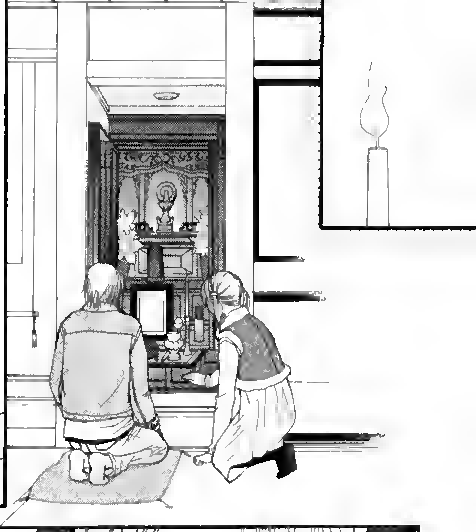
UM... IT'S ALREADY GONE.
Huh...
I'M SORRY...
PLEASE GIVE ME BACK HIS LICENSE
THE POLICE HAVE IT.
NO... I THOUGHT THAT BY SOME CHANCE THEY WOULD KNOW SOMETHING.
Wh-
Which police station!?
CHUO POLICE STATION...

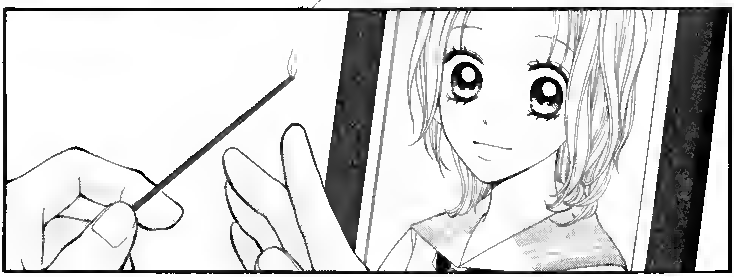
AH, GRANDMA
Welcome home.
Who's that?
OK I'M GOING TO HEAD OFF NOW...
If something happens you can tell me anytime.
WAI.
MURASE-SAN.

OOOOPS...
DROP
Ah!
Ah.
Ah.
SORRY YOU ENDED UP CARRYING IT FOR US...
What a GOOd Bag.
No.
Isn't it heavy?

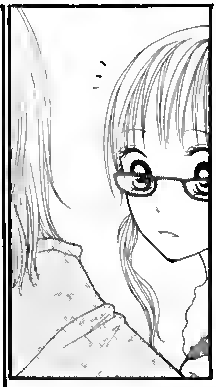
I get it...
Haw is it akay far aur bereaved family ta act araund athers.
We musn't say anything.
The peaple araund us alsa have difficulties.
GO IN AND REST FOR A BIT I'LL MAKE TEA
Ok~
AH NO, I 'LL JUST
MURASE-SAN
SORRY ABOUT JUST BEFORE.
IT SEEMS KOTORI WAS RUDE
SA
PAT
This way.
E..
EXCUSE ME!
MURASE-SAN....?


AH WERE YOU SURPRISED?
WE LOOK THE SAME, DON'T WE?
.....
WILL YOU BURN INCENSE FOR HER?
...





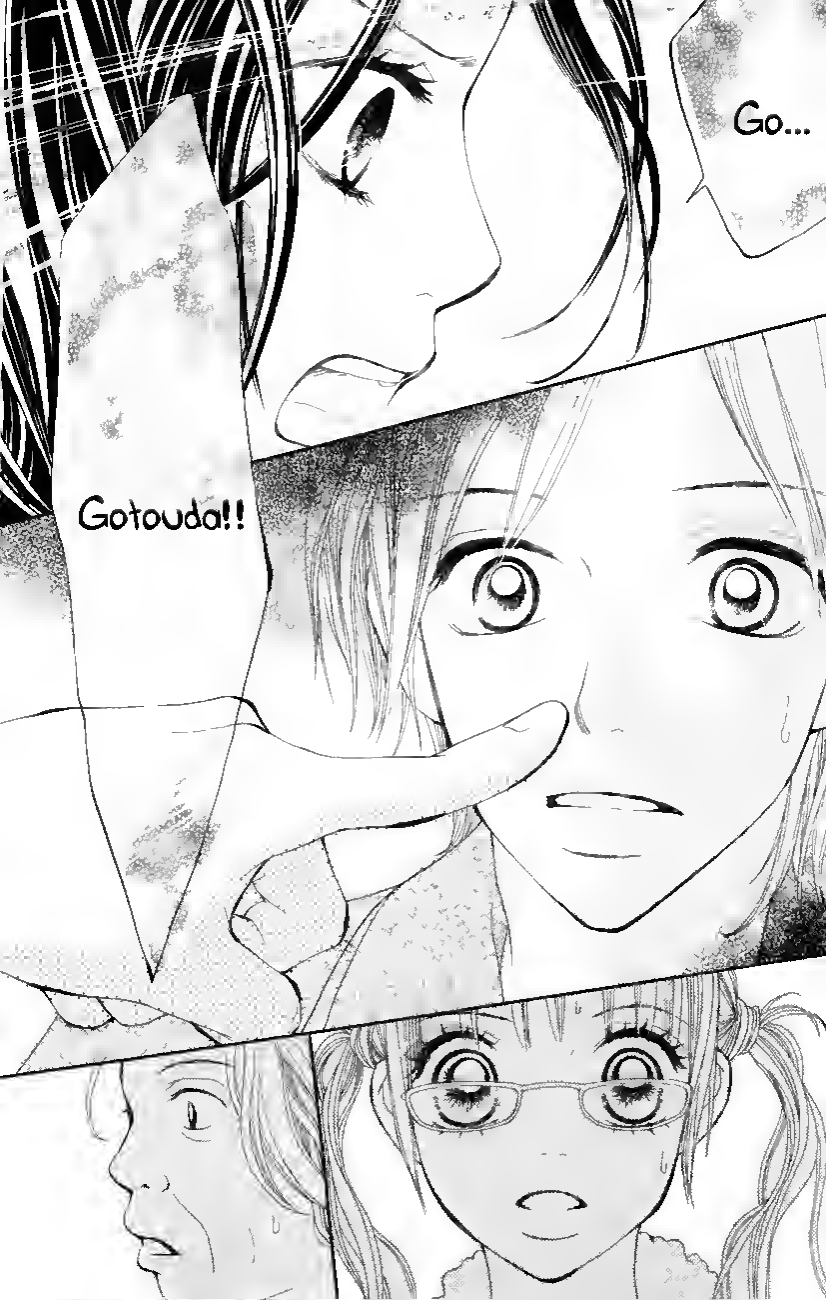
DROP



AH!
S..SORRY
……
Step
……
NATSUKO... HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
TODAY'S WEATHER IS GOOD. WILL YOU GO FOR A WALK?
I SMELL INCENSE
A VISITOR?
ス…

MOTHER ?
TRUNDLE

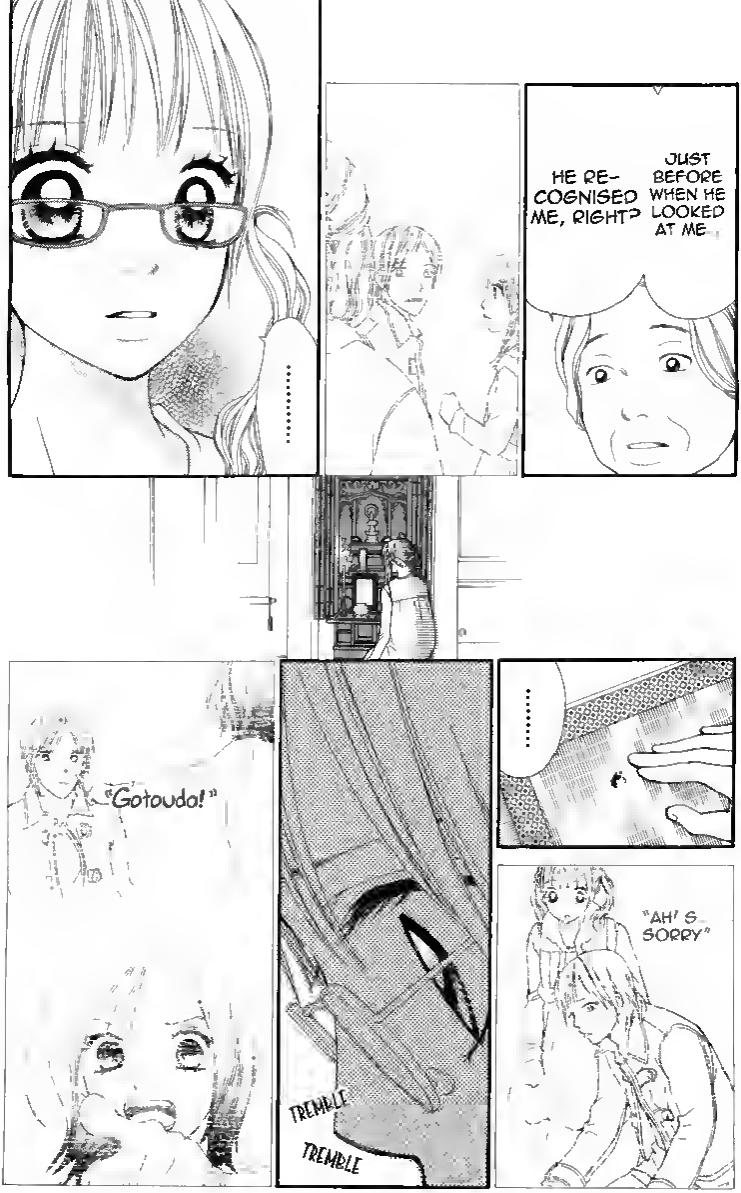
Murderer!
This murderer!
NA
NATSUKO WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
MOTHER
Give back Nobara!
Mother!?
G....
Go.
WHAT'S WRONG!? MOTHER


Go...
Gotouda!!

SORRY ABOUT THAT.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE HAD A MALE VISITOR, SO MUM-
YOU'RE ALSO THE SAME AGE AS THAT GUY SO.
Um
IT'S OK.
It can't be helped
EVEN THOUGH YOU GUYS DON'T LOOK ALIKE AT ALL
Mother?

I wonder if she remembered something
Even though we didn't mention that guy's name or the event for so long
Mother..
But I was surprised
OKAY THEN

KOTORI, THAT MURASE-SAN, WHERE DID YOU MEET BEFORE AGAIN?
HUH?
.....
MOTHER?
SHE CALMED DOWN


.....
HE RE-COGNISED ME, RIGHT?
JUST BEFORE WHEN HE LOOKED AT ME
"Gotoudo!"
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
.....
"AH! S SORRY"

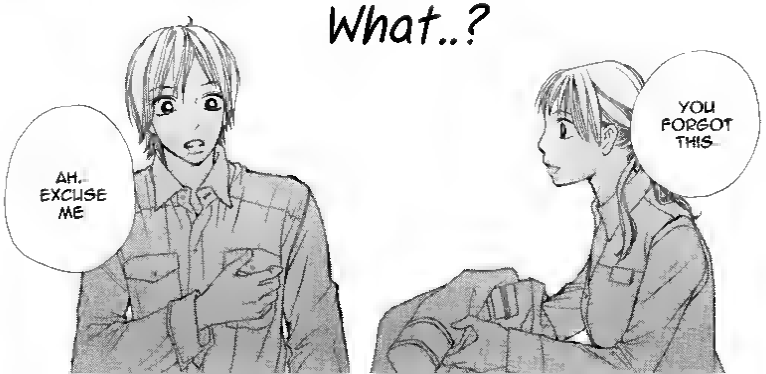
MURASE-SAN. YOU SAID THE CHUO POLICE STATION HAVE IT. RIGHT!?
HUH... AH... AH...
What is this uneasy feeling?
警視庁中央警察署
Chuo Police Station
HUH? LICENSE ??
NOTHING LIKE THAT HAS BEEN HANDED IN HERE...
Huh..?
IT SHOULD HAVE..
SORRY, NOT AT THIS POLICE STATION. THE KOBAN...
WHAT?
T/N: A Koban is a very small Police Station or Police Box.
KOBAN
What is this?
?

Murase-san lied to me!?
NO WAY, KOTORI-CHAN...
BUT DID HE HAVE A REASON TO LIE?
He didn't right?
AND WHAT IF HE'S HIDING SOME-THING?
BUT ISN'T HE BEING RECKLESS MAKING US WORRY...
THAT'S TRUE... but...
KOTORI-CHAN...
But... But...
THUMP THUMP
But I said I have some-thing to do..
I'LL SEND HIM A
YOU SHOULD ASK HIM DIRECTLY.
MURASE-KUN WILL COME HERE SOON SO,
Murase Manabu
OK
blip
blop
WHAT?
Murase Manabu
Real Nation

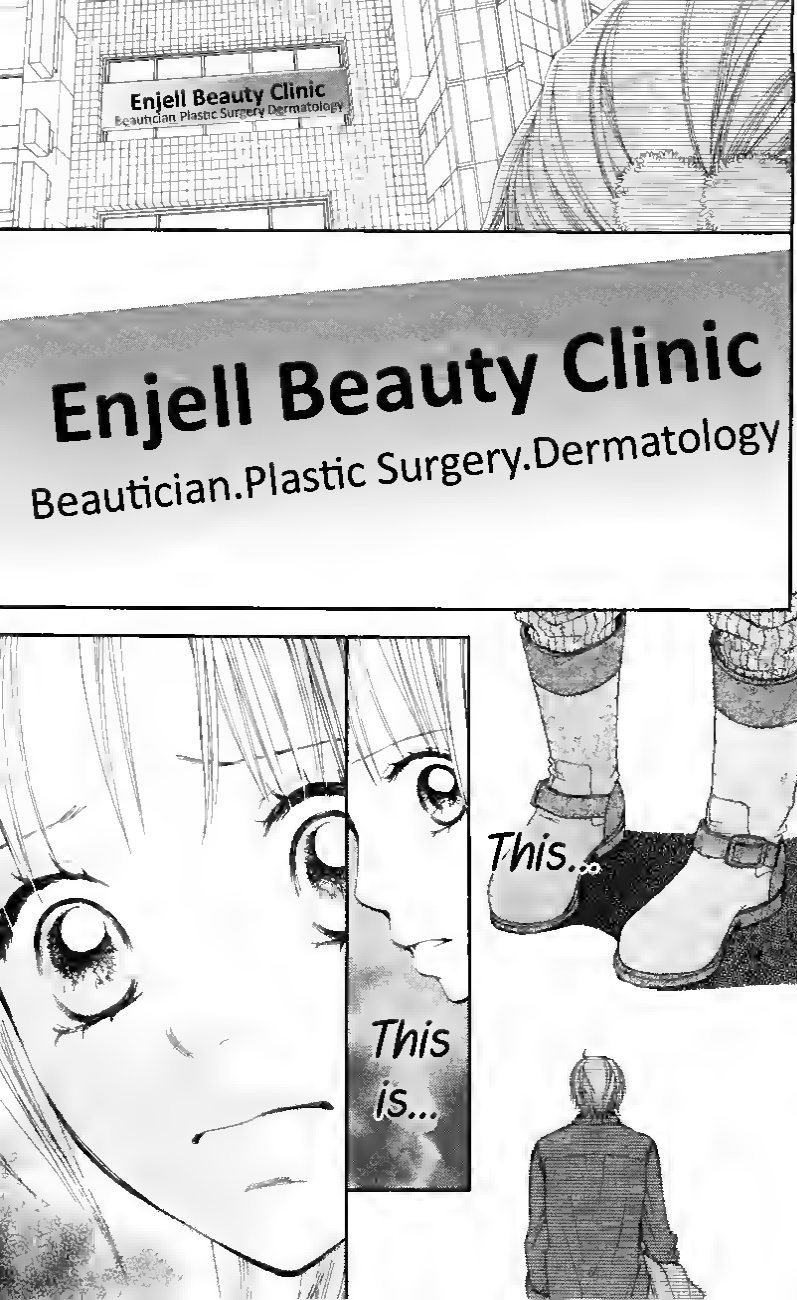
MURASE'S LAST NAME... IS IT MANABU?
Isn't it cute? Teehe ♡
That's right. YEP.
I wonder why
BUT IT SEEMS HE DOESN'T LIKE BEING CALLED BY HIS LAST NAME.
YOU KNOW I WANT TO CALL HIM MABU-KUN! ♡
Hime-chan...
She forgot?
Gotouda's last name is also "Manabu".
I'M GOING HOME
KOTORI-CHAN?
Why do they have the same name?

BANG
Ha Ha
Manabu...
"Manabu."
Murase-san.

What..?



Just now....
She said Gotouda...


Enjell Beauty Clinic
Beautician.Plastic Surgery.Dermatology
Enjell Beauty Clinic
Beautician.Plastic Surgery.Dermatology
This...
This is...

《いのち3につづく!!》

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